GUIDE TO THE ES10 HIGHLAND SCOTS FILE

[The ES10 Highland Scots file contains specific data on the language and culture of the people of the Scottish highlands and the Hebrides. The general focus of the file is the five crofting counties in this area, Caithness, Sutherlan Ross and Cromarty, Inverness, and Argyll. The specific focus of the materials included in this file is the Isle of Lewis and Harris (actually a single island) in the Outer Hebrides in the county of Inverness. This is a generally culturally conservative area, bilingual in Scots Gaelic and English, whose economy is dependent on small farms and sheepherding, with fishing important in the islands and coastal areas. Very important on the island is the tweed industry, the home weaving of woolen cloth, which contributes a significant amount to the income of the island.

There are six sources in the file, two by anthropologists (1: Parman and 6: Ducey), one by a historian (2: Thompson), and three by geographers (3: Geddes, 4: Moisley et al., and 5: Caird et al). All of the sources are in English. 1: Parman is a study of sociocultural change in the crofting community of Shawbost in northwest Lewis, containing much information on the community, interpersonal relations, and personal histories. 2: Thompson is a general historical treatment of the Isle of Lewis and Harris, including geography, economy, agriculture, and land reforms. The treatment is more popular than scholarly, but it is a very good introduction to the island as it exists today. 3: Geddes presents a survey of the changing physical-environmental and cultural systems operating on the island from the 17th century to 1952. It contains a great deal of information on the historical geography and on the human geography of the island. 4: Moisley et al. is an extremely detailed report on the parish of Uig in western Lewis, which concentrates

on land use, agricultural practices, and the present state of the crofting system (a system of land use). 5: Caird et al. is a study of the agricultural practices and potential of the district of Park in eastern Lewis, south of the town of Stornoway, the island's capital. 6: Ducey is a study of the sociocultural effects of the severe depopulation of the Isle of Skye (Inner Hebrides). It focuses on the maintenance of cultural continuity through changes from a clan-oriented to a religion-oriented (Presbyterianism) society. The ES10 Highland Scots file is generally a good one for comparative purposes, containing a great deal of information on the geographic and economic background, less on socio-political aspects. The extensive historical depth of the file, in spite on its concentration on 20th century conditions, makes it imperative that the researcher identify the time period to which the specific information pertains before using it for comparison. Several marking decisions have been made for the file: information on croft farming or crofting has been placed in Categories 241 and 427; on the 'conjoint' or 'farm group' in Category 476; on runes used in rituals in Category 788; on the Reformation in Category 798; on clans in Category 614; on the tweed industry in Category 288; on the preparation of alkali from kelp for the glass and soap industries in Categories 824, 323, and 388; and on the Crofters Holdings Act of 1886 in Category 671. All discussions of emigration by islanders when the destination is not stated, and of nonresident members of the community, have been placed in Category 166. Information dealing with the cultural isolation of the Highland Scots from the rest of Scotland and England will be found in Category 184. The file was processed in 1974 and 1975.]